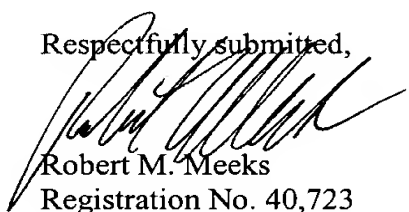


### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application, including the allowance of Claims 62-69 and 77 and the indication that Claims 61 and 73-75 recite patentable subject matter. In response, Applicants have canceled Claim 73 and incorporated its recitations into Claim 58 from which it originally depended. Applicants submit that this amendment raises no new issues and introduces no new matter, and places Claim 58, 60, 61, 70-72 and 74-76 in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Applicants have also canceled Claims 42-57 (which were previously withdrawn from consideration) without prejudice or disclaimer towards pursuing these claims in a divisional application.

Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Should any formal issues remain to be resolved, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert M. Meeks  
Registration No. 40,723  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

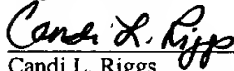


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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 4, 2003.



Candi L. Riggs

Date of Signature: August 4, 2003